



The Georgia Senate This Week

Senate Information Office ♦ 201 Legislative Office Building ♦ Atlanta, Georgia ♦ 404.656.0028

It's round two for Voter ID legislation

In what seemed to be déjà vu all over again, the Senate debated the Voter ID legislation for the third time in less than a year on Tuesday – this time to “perfect” the legislation passed during the 2005 Session. It was round two for Senate Bill 84, authored by Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th, which was originally debated last March, only to be attached to House Bill 244 and debated for the second time. SB 84, which languished in the House for nine months, was reborn earlier this year and replaced with language making it easier for Georgians without one of the six approved identification cards – including a driver's license, a passport or a military ID.

“For me, this is about the future, not the past,” Sen. **Staton**, who agreed there are problems with absentee voter fraud, said. “Our civil rights dictate that we have a right to vote without undue encumbrances. But our civil rights also dictate that we have a right to have our vote count, and not be disqualified by someone else who votes illegally or who commits fraud.”

After U. S. District Court Judge **Harold Murphy** halted the law that Gov. **Perdue** signed last year, saying it was equal to a “poll” tax and was unfair to certain groups – especially the poor, the elderly and minorities – the House of Representatives sought to make the changes so that it would pass Court and U. S. Department of Justice muster. The new legislation specifies that the State will provide free identification cards to all registered voters upon request, and that all county board of elections and all local offices of the Department of Driver's Services – more than 120 locations across the state will provide the state-issued ID card. The legislation also specifies that the State must educate voters about the new law.



“This bill is not about depriving people from voting,” Sen. **Preston Smith** of the 52nd said. “This is about that sacred right which so many have fought and died for. It is about ensuring that we can vote and that our vote will have some meaning and not be cancelled out by the perpetuation of fraud.”

Despite efforts to repair the legislation, the bill was not without its detractors.

“The 26th Amendment gave the right to vote to all us citizens 18 years of age or older,” said Sen. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th. “All of you think about this for a minute, why are we now restricting the right to vote?”

The vote, which fell closely across party lines, was 32-22, and all amendments, with the exception of the one put forth by Sen. **Staton**, failed or were ruled out of order.

Sen. **Kasim Reed** of the 35th, who has fought vehemently against the legislation told the members of the Senate, “Failure to present a photo ID is not grounds for denying the right to vote.”

The bill returned to the House for agreement on Wednesday. It now goes to the Governor for his signature.

Child support legislation helps non-custodial parents who spend time with their children

Follow-up legislation to House Bill 221 was heard Wednesday on the Senate floor, as Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th introduced Senate Bill 382, which makes changes to the current law governing the determination and payment of child support.

The bill spells out the means for calculating child support – instructing the courts to determine the award based on the gross income and adjusted gross income of both parents. The table determines the pro-rata share of the Basic Child Support Obligation for each parent, making adjustments for parenting time, factors regarding health insurance, work-related child care costs and other factors prior to determining the final child support order.

Sen. **Harp** said that the primary goal of the Commission that was responsible for writing the proposed legislation is to take care of children.

“This bill brings Georgia’s child support law into the 21st Century,” he said.

The legislation was amended by Sens. **Renee Unterman** of the 45th and **Valencia Seay** of the 34th. Sen. **Unterman’s** amendment mandates that if the non-custodial parent spends more than 120 days with their child, then the percentage of their child support would be adjusted according to the following schedule:

121-136 days	10 percent
137-151 days	20 percent
152-166 days	30 percent
167-181 days	40 percent
182+ days	50 percent

Sen. **Seay’s** amendment orders judges to find non-custodial parents in contempt of court if they fail to abide by the visitation/payment schedule.

“There are good dads out there and it is hard to find ways to help them, because they are being abused,” Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd said. “A great percentage of the problem is that there are dads out there who are not great dads.”

Senate Bill 382 passed the Upper Chamber with a vote of 38-17.

In Committee Action...

Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

The Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

Appropriations

The Senate Appropriations Committee met in joint session with the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee the week of January 16 to hear budget needs from state agencies.

Banking and Financial Institutions

The Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee did not meet this week.

Economic Development

Chairman **Jeff Mullis** of the 53rd called the first meeting of the 2006 session to order on Wednesday, January 18. After some brief introductions, Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th presented the committee substitute to *Senate Bill 414*, the *Rural Georgia Economic Development Act*, and the accompanying *Senate Resolution 682*. Sen. **Staton** explained the bill and emphasized that any previous language giving local governments the powers of eminent domain had been removed. He then explained that *SR 682* proposes a constitutional amendment to remove limitations on the types of properties in community improvement districts (CID). Sen. **Bill Stephens** of the 27th moved that the Committee adopt the substitute to *SB 414*, and this was approved unanimously. Chairman **Mullis** then moved the bill to a subcommittee, and appointed Senators **Joseph Carter** of the 13th, **Curt Thompson** of the 5th, **Nancy Schaefer** of the 50th and **Jim Whitehead** of the 24th to study the bill.

Education and Youth

The Committee met on Monday, January 23, to consider *House Bill 543*. After roll call, Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** of the 50th brought forth the Committee Substitute to *Senate Bill 149*, which is a bill from the 2005 session that would require written parental consent for a child to participate in any extracurricular club or activity. The bill passed through Committee by a 5-1 vote. Rep. **David Casas** of the 103rd then presented *HB 543*, which would allow an employee of a local board of education to donate up to ten sick leave days to his/her spouse if said spouse is also an employee of the local board. After expressing concerns that *HB 543* would take control away from local school boards, Sen. **John Douglas** of the 17th moved to table the bill. The motion failed for lack of a second. Sen. **Dan Weber** of the 40th offered some minor language changes to the bill, which were approved unanimously. *HB 543* passed through Committee as amended by a 5-1 vote.

The Committee met again on Tuesday, January 24, to consider *SB 390*, which would require that every local school system spend a minimum of 65 percent of its total operating funds on direct classroom expenditures, beginning with Fiscal Year 2008. Sen. **Ronnie Chance** of the 16th and Governor Perdue's Education Policy Advisor **Jennifer Rippner** presented *SB 390*, also known as the *Classrooms First for Georgia Act*. Sen. **Chance** and **Rippner** then reviewed data showing that school districts that spend a greater percentage of funds in the classroom outperform districts that spend lower percentages. Members of Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA), Georgia Association of Educators (GAE), Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), Coweta County Schools, Georgia Parent/Teacher Association and others all spoke against the legislation, stating that it would take funding away from other important education costs, such as counselors, media specialists, school nurses and others. After a lengthy debate on the bill, Sen. **Chance** and **Rippner** concluded by emphasizing the need for *SB 390* to improve the State's K-12 education system. *SB 390* passed through Committee by a unanimous vote.

Ethics

The Senate Ethics Committee did not meet this week.

Finance

The Senate Finance Committee did not meet this week.

Health and Human Services

On Wednesday, January 25, Chairman **Don Thomas** of 54th called the meeting to order and moved that the rules of the Committee be adopted. They were done so unanimously. Sen. **Thomas** then introduced *Senate Bill 435*, which affects county directors of family and children services by changing certain provisions relating to the appointment of the county directors and repealing conflicting laws. **Gina Simpson**, Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) Deputy Commissioner and **Gary Nagel**, Deputy Director of DHR's Office of Human Resource Management and Development, spoke on behalf of the legislation. After a point of clarification from Sen. **Horacena Tate** of the 38th, the motion passed out of Committee unanimously.

Higher Education

The Committee met in the Georgia State Student Center Auditorium on January 25. Chairman **Seth Harp** of the 29th called the meeting to order to hear presentations on *Senate Resolution 655* sponsored by Senator **Joe Carter** of the 13th and *Senate Bill 440* sponsored by Senator **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th. The two pieces of legislation will pave the way for a constitutional amendment reserving lottery funding for exclusive use for the HOPE Scholarship and Georgia Pre-K Program. After the presentation, the committee granted unanimous approval to both bills. Senator **Harp** then gave the public a briefing on the lawmaking process, describing how the bills will move through on their path to becoming a part of Georgia's constitution. The Senators were then dismissed to attend the State of the Judiciary Address.

Insurance and Labor

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee did not meet this week.

Interstate Cooperation

The Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee did not meet this week.

Judiciary

On Thursday, January 19, the Committee took up three bills on its agenda. Sen. **Jeff Chapman** of the 3rd presented *Senate Bill 391*, which places a moratorium on the use of eminent domain for a period of 120 days. The moratorium would not apply to the construction of government structures and public roads. After some discussion and testimony from members of the audience, the bill passed unanimously. Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th then presented *SB 382*, which makes changes to current laws governing the determination of child support and other aspects of the duty to pay child support. The bill lays out the process for calculating child support, instructing the court to determine an award based on gross income and adjusted gross income of both parents, then utilizing the child support obligation table based on the combination of incomes. This table determines the pro rata share of the Basic Child Support Obligation for each parent, makes an adjustment for parenting time, factors in health insurance and work-related child care costs, and other factors before entering the final child support order. The bill passed by an unanimous vote. Finally, Chairman **Preston Smith** of the 52nd presented *SB 383*, which provides that superior court clerks will now also serve as clerks of the state courts, magistrate courts, juvenile courts and any newly created court having jurisdiction throughout a county. The Committee heard much testimony from superior court clerks in support of the bill, as well as

state court, magistrate court and juvenile court clerks in opposition of the bill. The bill will be considered at a later time.

Natural Resources and Environment

The Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee did not meet this week.

Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Senate Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee did not meet this week.

Reapportionment and Redistricting

The Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee did not meet this week.

Regulated Industries and Utilities

The Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee did not meet this week.

Retirement

The Senate Retirement Committee did not meet this week.

Rules

The Senate Rules Committee met to approve Senate Resolution 649 Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Science and Technology

The Senate Science and Technology Committee did not meet this week.

Special Judiciary

On Wednesday, January 25, the Committee met to take up two bills on its agenda. Sen. **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd was joined by **Jim Outman**, an attorney specializing in adoptions, to present *Senate Bill 249*, which would allow for the release of the original birth certificate to an adoptee who is of adult age upon his or her request. Currently, this release can only be done through a court order. The same language has passed the Senate twice with overwhelming support, but the bill has been held over in the House due to concerns that it would be effective retroactively. *SB 249* would make the effective date July 1, 2005. Sen. **David Adelman** of the 42nd proposed an amendment that would change the effective date to July 1, 2006. The amendment was adopted and the bill passed unanimously as amended. Chairman **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th then noted that the Committee would only be holding a hearing on *SB 419*. Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th presented the bill, which would allow an individual owed \$500 or more delinquent child support to submit a claim to the Georgia Lottery Corporation. The claim would serve as a lien against lottery winnings. The Lottery Corporation would be required to hold any lottery proceeds in excess of \$500 to verify whether claims for support have been filed. Currently, a claim can be made against winnings in excess of \$5000. Sen. **Harp** stated that only winnings of \$601 or more are collected at lottery offices and that it was not his intention to burden retailers by placing the threshold at \$500 or more and that this change would need to be made. **J.B. Landrosche** of the Lottery Commission presented their concerns about the administrative costs and court costs associated with such small claims. Chairman **Meyer von Bremen** asked Mr. **Landrosche** to work with the author and stated that the Committee would take the bill up at another meeting.

State and Local Governmental Operations

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee did not meet this week.

State Institutions and Property

The Committee met on Monday, January 23, in a joint fact-finding meeting with their colleagues from the House of Representatives to hear testimony from Assistant Commissioner **Brian Owens** about the methods of bidding for the state prisons' commissary contracts. Commissioner **Owens** told the committee that the state should determine if a single vendor or multi vendor system would be the most efficient way to operate the prison commissaries. Wardens from several of Georgia's high-profile prisons addressed the committees telling them their ideas to best manage the commissary system. The Committee will continue their inquiry next week, meeting with vendors that handle the commissary sales in Georgia.

Transportation

The Committee held its first meeting of the 2006 session on Wednesday, January 25 to adopt its rules and listen to presentations. Deputy Commissioner of Georgia Department of Transportation **Larry Dent** then made a presentation on a proposed public/private initiative for the I-75/I-575 corridor. The presentation highlighted the potential for toll lanes across the metro interstate system, including HOV, HOT and TOT lanes. **Rick Fitzgerald** of Goldman-Sachs also gave a presentation on public/private initiatives in other states, and the types of funding currently being used for these projects. Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** of the 50th then presented *Senate Resolution 686*, which designates a portion of U.S. 441 as the *J. Alton Wingate, Sr. Memorial Parkway*. The resolution passed through Committee by a unanimous vote.

Veterans and Military Affairs

On Wednesday, January 25, the Committee met to watch a slide show presentation given by retired Army Major **Dexter Brewer** on the current situation in Iraq.

Joint House of Representatives and Senate Education

On Monday, January 23, Chairman **Brooks Coleman** of the 97th and Chairman **Dan Moody** of the 56th called the first-ever joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees to order to hear from Chairman of the Governor's Education Finance Task Force **Dean Alford** and Dr. **Ed Keller** of IBM. They updated the Committee on the current status of the education cost-model project. Next, the joint committee heard from Performance Learning Center (PLC) students from counties across the State, including Barrow, Catoosa, Cobb, Fulton and others. All the students who spoke stressed that without attending PLCs, they would not graduate high school on time.

Georgia State Senate First Readers

(Friday, January 13 – Wednesday, January 25, 2006)

Senate Resolutions:

- SR 682** CA: Community Improvement Districts; remove limitation on types of property subject to taxes, fees, and assessments
Sens. **Cecil Staton** (18th); **Joseph Carter** (13th); **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **Ronnie Chance** (16th); **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Chip Pearson** (51st) and others
Economic Development Committee – 01/13/06
- SR 683** Georgia's Registered Nurses; commend
Sens. **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **David Adelman** (42nd); **Renee Unterman** (54th); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/13/06
- SR 684** Religious Freedom Day; proclaim Jan. 16th
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Greg Goggans** (7th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/13/06
- SR 685** Carroll County Chamber of Commerce; recognize
Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th)
Read and Adopted – 01/13/06
- SR 686** Designate; J. Alton Wingate, Sr. Memorial Parkway; Habersham County
Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th)
Transportation Committee – 01/13/06
- SR 687** Gordon, Dr. Carl; commend
Sens. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th) and **George Hooks** (14th)
Read and Adopted – 01/13/06
- SR 688** Capitol Tech Day; recognize Jan. 30, 2006
Sens. **Tim Golden** (8th); **David Shafer** (48th); **J. B. Powell** (23rd); **Casey Cagle** (49th); **Bill Heath** (31st); **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/23/06
- SR 689** Bishop, Mrs. Vivian Creighton; congratulate
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and Adopted – 01/23/06
- SR 690** Georgia Recreation and Parks Association; recognize
Sen. **John Wiles** (37th)
Read and Adopted – 01/23/06
- SR 691** Leadership Cook 2005; commend
Sens. **Tim Golden** (8th) and **Greg Goggans** (7th)
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 692** Clamp, Dr. Wendell; commend
Sen. **John Douglas** (17th)
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06

- SR 693** Bremen High School; commend
Sen. **Bill Heath** (31st)
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 694** Cartersville/Bartow Chamber of Commerce and Governmental Affairs
Committee; volunteers; recognize
Sens. **Bill Heath** (31st); **Preston Smith** (52nd) and **Chip Rogers** (21st)
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 695** Georgia Dance Marathon, University of; commend
Sens. **Brian Kemp** (46th) and **Ralph Hudgens** (47th)
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 696** CA: Sales Tax; educational purposes; distributed on basis of student enrollment
when proceeds are between county/independent district
Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and **Casey Cagle** (49th)
Education and Youth Committee – 01/24/06
- SR 697** CA; power vested in the people; Constitution of Georgia
Sens. **J. B. Powell** (23rd) and **George Hooks** (14th)
Rules Committee – 01/24/06
- SR 698** Georgia's sustainable/environmentally friendly businesses; commend
Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Brian Kemp** (46th); **Don Thomas** (54th);
Chip Rogers (21st); **Robert Brown** (26th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 699** Georgia Rural Health Association; commend
Sens. **Don Thomas** (54th); **Greg Goggans** (7th); **Renee Unterman** (45th);
Tommie Williams (19th); **Jack Hill** (4th); **Bill Stephens** (27th) and others
Read and Adopted- 01/24/06
- SR 700** Juvenile Law Commission; creating/continuing
Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Judiciary Committee – 01/24/06
- SR 701** Crawford, Jr., James Ray; condolences
Sens. **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th);
Regina Thomas (2nd); **Steen Miles** (43rd); **Valencia Seay** (34th);
John Wiles (37th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 702** Kellett, Jr.; Samuel B.; commend
Sens. **David Shafer** (48th); **Casey Cagle** (49th) and **Brian Kemp** (46th)
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 703** Jefferson City Schools System; commend
Sen. **Ralph Hudgens** (47th)
Read and Adopted – 01/24/06
- SR 704** Terry, Rev. James H.; Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church; congratulate
Sen **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 705** Passmore; Mrs. Mildred Ruth Dixon; condolences
Sen. **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 706** Asbury Treasures Day; recognize February 5, 2006
Sen. **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06

- SR 707** Williams-Omilami, Elisabeth and Afemo Omilami; commend
Sens. **Steen Miles** (43rd); **Gloria Butler** (55th); **Horacena Tate** (38th);
Vincent Fort (39th); **Robert Brown** (26th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 708** Scott, Colonel (Retired) Charles; honoring
Sens. **Terrell Starr** (44th); **John Douglas** (17th) and **Emanuel Jones** (10th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 709** Mann, Ms. Ruth Hazel; congratulate
Sen. **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 710** Scarborough, Mr. and Mrs. Ira; congratulate
Sen. **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 711** Price, Judge Mell; condolences
Sen. **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Eric Johnson** (1st) and **Jeff Chapman** (3rd)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 712** Fitzgerald High School Cheerleaders; Coaches; commend
Sen. **Joseph Carter** (13th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 713** Hullett, Mackenzie Elise, celebrate birth
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Chip Rogers** (21st) and **John Wiles** (37th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 714** Atlanta International School; commend
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Sam Zamarripa** (36th);
Casey Cagle (49th) and **Dan Moody** (56th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 715** Bagataway Lacrosse Team Georgia High School Boys Lacrosse Team
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Brian Kemp** (46th);
Bill Stephens (27th) and **Casey Cagle** (49th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 716** Harris, Christopher Xavier; Eagle Scout; commend
Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21st) and **Bill Stephens** (27th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 717** Pate, Specialist (E4) Camden Ned; commend
Sens. **Greg Goggans** (7th); **George Hooks** (14th); **Terrell Starr** (44th);
John Douglas (17th); **David Shafer** (48th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 718** Schmidt, Sr., Stephen J.; condolences
Sens. **Steve Henson** (41st) and **Dan Weber** (40th)
Transportation Committee – 01/25/06
- SR 719** Riverwood High School's International Studies
Sen. **Judson Hill** (34th)
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06
- SR 720** Take Your Kids to Vote Day; declare November 7, 2006
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Bill Heath** (31st); **Don Thomas** (54th);
Bill Hamrick (30th); **Joseph Carter** (13th) and others
Read and Adopted – 01/25/06

Senate Bills:

- SB 405** Driver's License; person driving without a valid driver's license shall be fingerprinted/photographed
Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Greg Goggans** (7th); **Bill Heath** (31st); **John Douglas** (17th) and others
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 425** Georgia Child, Family, and School Communications Protection; enact; provide conditions for registration
Sens. **Greg Goggans** (7th); **Sam Zamarripa** (36th); **Don Balfour** (9th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Terrell Starr** (44th) and others
Science and Technology Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 426** Public Safety Commissioner; authorized/directed to negotiate terms; enforcement of immigration laws
Sens. **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Bill Heath** (31st); **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th); **Chip Rogers** (21st) and others
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 427** Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority Law; define terms; alternative investments
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Jack Hill** (4th); **Seth Harp** (29th) and **Curt Thompson** (5th)
Retirement Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 428** Controlled Substances; distribution in, on, or within real property on which a church is located; prohibited; penalties
Sens. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **John Douglas** (17th); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **David Shafer** (48th) and others
Special Judiciary Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 429** Abortions; access to certain medical equipment; perform certain medical procedures; penalty for violations
Sens. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Don Balfour** (9th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Judson Hill** (32nd) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 430** Student Health; mental health screening; parental consent; provide for notice
Sens. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd) and others
Education and Youth Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 431** Public Road System; utility fails to remove/relocate facility; responsible to Dept. of Transportation for failure to comply
Sens. **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th); **Bill Stephens** (27th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Bill Heath** (31st); **John Douglas** (17th) and others
Transportation Committee – 01/13/06
- SB 432** *Georgia Museum Property Act*; regulate loans to and abandoned property of museums and archives repositories
Sens. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Don Balfour** (9th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Chip Pearson** (21st); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Cecil Staton** (18th) and others
Special Judiciary Committee – 01/13/06

- SB 433** Detentions; counties housing state inmates; increase the minimum reimbursement rate
Sen. **Regina Thomas** (2nd)
State and Local Government Operations Committee – 01/23/06
- SB 434** Geologist; license renewal; condition; provide for continuing education
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Natural Resources and the Environment Committee – 01/23/06
- SB 435** County Directors of Family/Children Services; appointment; change provisions
Sens. **Don Thomas** (54th) and **Seth Harp** (29th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/23/06
- SB 436** Technical/Adult Education; State Board; meetings; change provisions
Sens. **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Chip Pearson** (51st) and **Brian Kemp** (46th)
Higher Education Committee – 01/23/06
- SB 437** Quality Basic Education; authorize state board of education to develop elective course of a nonsectarian, nonreligious study of Bible
Sens. **Tim Golden** (8th); **Doug Stoner** (6th); **Kasim Reed** (35th) and **J. B. Powell** (23rd)
Education and Youth Committee – 01/23/06
- SB 438** State Employees; health insurance plan; new third-party administrator; provide time requirements for credentialing health care providers
Sens. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th); **George Hooks** (14th) and **Tim Golden** (8th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 01/23/06
- SB 439** State Employees; health insurance plan; assessed late charge due to noncompliance with deadline; provide proof of attempted compliance
Sens. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th); **George Hooks** (14th) and **Tim Golden** (8th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 01/23/06
- SB 440** Lottery Funds; eliminate Construction Reserve Trust Fund; Board of Education; funds to local units of admin.; electronic technology
Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Brian Kemp** (46th); **David Shafer** (48th) and **Nancy Schaefer** (50th)
Higher Education Committee – 01/24/06
- SB 441** Milk; milk products; standards and requirements; change certain provisions
Sens. **John Bulloch** (11th); **Brian Kemp** (46th); **Casey Cagle** (49th); **Bill Stephens** (27th) and **Ross Tolleson** (20th)
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs – 01/24/06
- SB 442** Child Abuse; reporting; change certain provisions
Sens. **Dan Moody** (56th); **Joseph Carter** (13th); **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th); **Brian Kemp** (46th); **Dan Weber** (40th); **Miles Steen** (43rd) and others
Education and Youth Committee – 01/24/06
- SB 443** River Basin Protection Act; protection; regulate interbasin transfers of water; in-stream flow policy
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd) and **Seth Harp** (29th)
Natural Resources and the Environment – 01/24/06
- SB 444** Paperwork Reduction Act; address filings by agents, subagents; exempt certain changes; provide for maintenance by Insurance Commissioner
Sen. **David Shafer** (48th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 01/24/06

- SB 445** Civil War Commission; editorial changes; change administrative assignment; codify certain provisions
Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **John Bulloch** (11th); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Preston Smith** (52nd) and others
Economic Development Committee – 01/24/06
- SB 446** HOPE; public postsecondary institution; full-time student regain eligibility; end of quarter or semester
Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21st) and **Judson Hill** (32nd)
Higher Education Committee – 01/24/06
- SB 447** Ga. Agricultural Commodities Promotion Act; create Ga. Blueberry Commission
Sens. **Greg Goggans** (7th); **John Bulloch** (11th); **Brian Kemp** (46th); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Steve Henson** (41st) and others.
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee – 01/25/06
- SB 448** Natural Gas Competition/Deregulation; Public Service Commission; delivery
Sens. **Regina Thomas** (2nd); **Robert Brown** (26th); **Ed Harbison** (15th); **Kasim Reed** (35th); **Terrell Starr** (44th) and others
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 01/25/06
- SB 449** Penal Institutions; register sex offenders; prohibitions; higher education
Sen. **Brian Kemp** (46th)
Judiciary Committee – 01/25/06
- SB 450** Ad Valorem Taxation of Property; pay structure
Sens. **Brian Kemp** (46th); **John Wiles** (37th); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th) and others.
State and Local Government Operations Committee – 01/25/06
- SB 451** Sex Offender; notice of conviction; publication; drivers' license renewal
Sens. **Brian Kemp** (46th); **Steve Thompson** (33rd); **Bill Hamrick** (30th); **Johnny Grant** (25th); **Casey Cagle** (49th) and others.
Judiciary Committee – 01/25/06
- SB 452** Petroleum Products; Public Service Commission website of gas prices
Sen. **Curt Thompson** (5th)
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 01/25/06
- SB 453** Biodiesel Fuels; require use by vehicles of local school district; government
Sens. **Brian Kemp** (46th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Greg Goggans** (7th) and **Sam Zamarripa** (36th)
Transportation Committee – 01/25/06
- SB 454** Law Enforcement; require vehicle markings; Ga. State Patrol
Sens. **John Douglas** (17th) and **Brian Kemp** (46th)
Public Safety and Homeland Security – 01/25/06

House Resolutions:

- HR 1107** Joint session; message from Chief Justice of Supreme Court
Rep. **Jerry Keen** (179th)
Read and Adopted – 01/23/06

House Bills:

- HB 978** Capitol Art Standards Commission; create
Reps. **Calvin Hill** (21st) and **Calvin Smyre** (132nd)
Rules Committee – 01/23/06
- HB 251** Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund; designating surviving beneficiary
Reps. **Ben Bridges** (10th);
Bill Cummings (16th) and **Brooks Coleman** (97th)
Retirement Committee – 01/24/06
- HB 809** Superior Court Clerks' Retirement; survivors benefits; amend provisions
Reps. **David Knight** (126th); **John Lunsford** (110th) and **John Yates** (73rd)
Retirement Committee – 01/24/06
- HB 821** Judicial Retirement; certain judges or district attorneys; creditable service
Reps. **John Yates** (73rd); **David Knight** (126th) and **John Lunsford** (110th)
Retirement Committee – 01/24/06
- HB 344** Firefighters' Pension Fund; return to service after retirement; benefit
Rep. **Bill Cummings** (16th)
Retirement Committee – 01/25/06
- HB 357** Class Nine Fire Department Pension Fund; increase maximum monthly retirement benefit
Rep. **Bill Cummings** (16th)
Retirement Committee – 01/25/06
- HB 660** Firefighters' and Class Nine Pension Funds; certain active military duty; creditable service
Reps. **Bill Cummings** (16th); **Ben Bridges** (10th) and **John Yates** (73rd)
Retirement Committee – 01/25/06
- HB 749** Firefighters' Pension; certain active military duty; creditable service
Rep. **Bill Cummings** (16th)
Retirement Committee – 01/25/06
- HB 804** Barratry; Code section; repeal
Reps. **David Ralston** (7th) and **Wendell Willard** (49th)
Special Judiciary Committee – 01/25/06
- HB 901** Bryan County; State and Magistrate Court; surcharge on fines
Rep. **Ron Stephens** (164th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 01/25/06
- HB 902** Bryan County; state court; surcharge on fines
Rep. **Ron Stephens** (164th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 01/25/06
- HB 973** Speed detection device; law enforcement officers; change provisions
Reps. **Wendell Willard** (49th); **Edward Lindsey** (54th); **Jan Jones** (46th);
Debbie Buckner (130th) and **Burke Day** (163rd)
Public Safety and Homeland Security – 01/25/06
- HB 1003** Houston County, Magistrate Court of; elections
Reps. **Willie Talton** (145th); **Larry O'Neal** (146th);
Johnny Floyd (147th) and **Robert Ray** (136th)
State and Local Governmental Operations – 01/25/06

Senate Information Office Staff

Merri M. Brantley
Director

Jack A. Holt
Deputy Director

Jeremy Arich
Communications Specialist

Kristina M. Graves
Office Manager

Chris Bailey
Session Aide

Padmini Jambulapati
Session Aide

Elizabeth Wilson
Session Aide



Senate Information Office

201 Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404.656.0028 or outside the Atlanta area 800.282.5803